



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations



ILLICIT CYBER COMMERCE

OPERATION IN OUR SITES

Operation In Our Sites (IOS) is an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) initiative targeting entities that distribute counterfeit products through infringing internet websites. IOS is focused on developing long term investigations that identify targets in the US, assets and financial schemes used in operating infringing websites domestically and internationally. Through this strategy, HSI seeks to arrest and prosecute offenders and seize assets and domain names/websites.

The criminally seized domain names are redirected to the National Intellectual Property Right Coordination Center's (IPR Center) seizure banner which serves as a tool in educating the public about the perils of counterfeit items available on the Internet.

IOS coordinates with rights holders to utilize their civil legal-administrative remedies to shutdown infringing websites and re-direct their civilly seized websites to an Anti-Piracy/Counterfeiting Banner (Banner). The usage of this Banner is based on a

licensing agreement between HSI and the rights holder.

This Banner is an informational banner which provides a conduit for the public to provide information on IPR violations and also serves as a method of educating the public about IP theft.

The IPR Center continues to develop new and innovative strategies to protect intellectual property rights and seeks to adapt to the ever changing environment on the internet.

